

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Ex parte Quayle communication mailed on July 17, 2006. Currently claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 17 are indicated as allowable in the application. In an attempt to advance prosecution, claims 5, 14-16, 19-29 are hereby cancelled. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.121(d) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Namely, it is requested that the limitation found in claim 5 directed to a spring having one or more longitudinal struts must be shown in the drawings or the features cancelled from the claims. Claim 5 has been cancelled from the application, thus rendering this objection moot.

Rejoinder of claims 8-9 and 12-13

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the favorable treatment of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 17. In addition to the indicated claims, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 8-9 and 12-13, which depend from allowable claim 1.

As provided at form paragraph 8.50 found at M.P.E.P. §821.04(a), in situations where claims directed to an elected invention are found allowable, additional claims directed to a non-elected invention, yet requiring all the limitations of an allowable claim, may be rejoined in the application. Claims 8-9 at least fairly read on the non-elected species identified in Figures 3 and 4. As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the non-elected species includes all the limitations of allowed claims 1 and 6. Claims 12-13 at least fairly read on the non-elected species identified in Figures 7 and 8. As shown in Figures 7 and 8, the non-elected species includes all the limitations of allowed claims 1 and 6. Applicants respectfully assert claims 8-9 and 12-13 meet the requirements for rejoinder under form paragraph 8.50 found at M.P.E.P. §821.04(a). Rejoinder and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, issuance of a Notice of

Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Garner et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: Sept. 15, 2006


Glenn M. Seager, Reg. No. 36,926
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Tel: (612) 677-9050